



**User Manual**

## **AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter**

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# Package Contents



DWA-181  
AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter



Documentation

If any of the above items are missing or damaged, please contact your local reseller.

# System Requirements

- An available USB slot
- Windows® 10, 8, 7, Mac OS 10.13
- An 802.11ac, 802.11n, or 802.11g wireless network

# Introduction

The AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter (DWA-181) delivers powerful wireless AC technology to your desktop or notebook computer. Simply plug the adapter into an available USB port and connect to a wireless network to access a secure, high-speed internet connection – 2.4 GHz (400Mbps) or 5 GHz (up to 867Mbps). And with integrated Dual Band technology, you'll have reduced Wi-Fi interference to maximize throughput for faster streaming, gaming, and Skype calls.

## **Interference-Free Bandwidth**

The AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter (DWA-181) delivers Dual Band technology to your home network for intelligent, versatile, interference-free bandwidth. Check your email and surf the Internet on the 2.4 GHz band; or game, make Skype calls and stream HD movies to multiple devices using the cleaner, interference-free 5 GHz band. Whatever you like to do online, Dual Band has you covered.

## **Compatible With All Your Wireless Products**

While the AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter delivers cutting-edge 802.11ac speed to your home network, it's also backward compatible with all of your current wireless products – no updates or adapters necessary.

## **What is wireless AC?**

802.11ac is a new networking standard that produces high-throughput wireless speed on the 5 GHz band. What does this mean for your home network? Flawless HD video streaming, faster gaming, and lag-free Skype and Facetime calls, all with less Wi-Fi interference for smooth, lightning-fast performance. And while your home gains all the cutting-edge benefits of 11ac, D-Link's AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter is also compatible with all of your current Wireless N products.

"Maximum wireless signal rate derived from IEEE 802.11ac specification and IEEE Standard 802.11n specification. D-Link makes no warranties as to forward compatibility with future standards or compatibility with 802.11ac devices from other manufacturers. Actual data throughput will vary. Network conditions and environmental factors, including volume of network traffic, building materials and construction, and network overhead, lower actual data throughput rate. Environmental factors may adversely affect wireless signal range. Up to 867Mbps wireless speeds achieved when connecting to other 802.11ac devices. Data throughput may also be limited by the product's interface, less than 480 Mbps for a USB 2.0 interface. The inclusion of a specific product or manufacturer does not imply its endorsement of D-Link or the D-Link product. Computer must adhere to Microsoft's recommended System Requirements."

# Hardware Overview



1	<b>USB Connector</b>	Use to connect the DWA-181 to your computer.
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# Installation

This section will walk you through the installation process. If you have a built-in wireless adapter, please disable it in the device manager before installing your D-Link adapter. Also, if you have previously installed another wireless adapter, please make sure any software is uninstalled.

## Getting Started

Before installing your new D-Link wireless adapter, please verify the following:

- Remove any previous installations of wireless adapters
- Disable any built-in wireless adapters
- Verify the settings such as the SSID and security settings of the network(s) you want to connect to

## Remove Existing Installations

If you have installed a different manufacturer's adapter or a different model D-Link adapter, make sure the software is uninstalled before installing the new software. Some utilities may cause a conflict with the new software. If you plan to use multiple adapters at different times, make sure the utilities are not set to load when your computer boots up.

To remove any old software:

Windows 10 users: Click Start > All apps > Windows System > Control Panel > Programs > Uninstall a Program

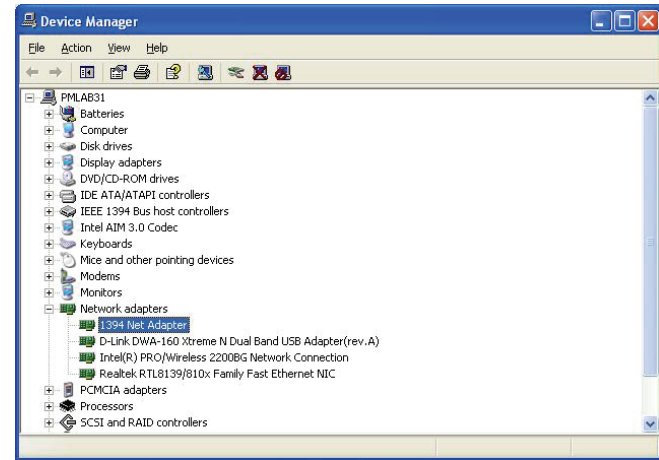
Windows 7/8 users: Click Start > Control Panel > Uninstall Programs

## Disable Other Wireless Adapters

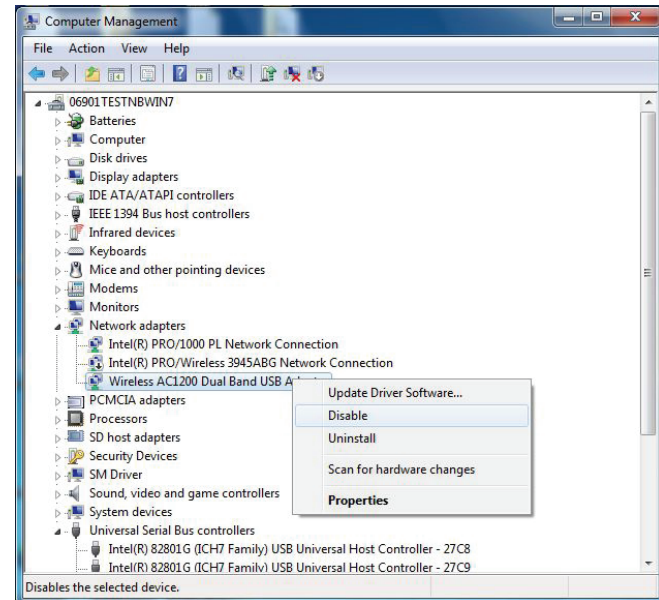
Most newer laptops may include a built-in wireless adapter. To prevent any conflicts with the D-Link wireless adapter, it is recommended to disable the wireless adapter (as well as any unused Ethernet adapters).

From the desktop, right-click on the **My Computer** icon and select **Properties**.

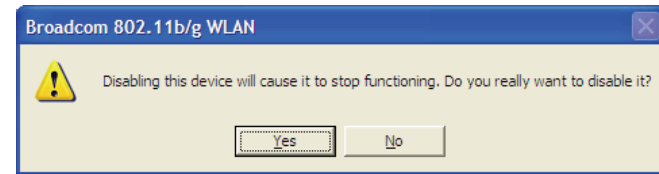
Click the **Hardware** tab and then click **Device Manager**. Scroll down the list and click the + sign to the left of **Network Adapters**.



Right-click the adapter you would like to disable and select **Disable**.

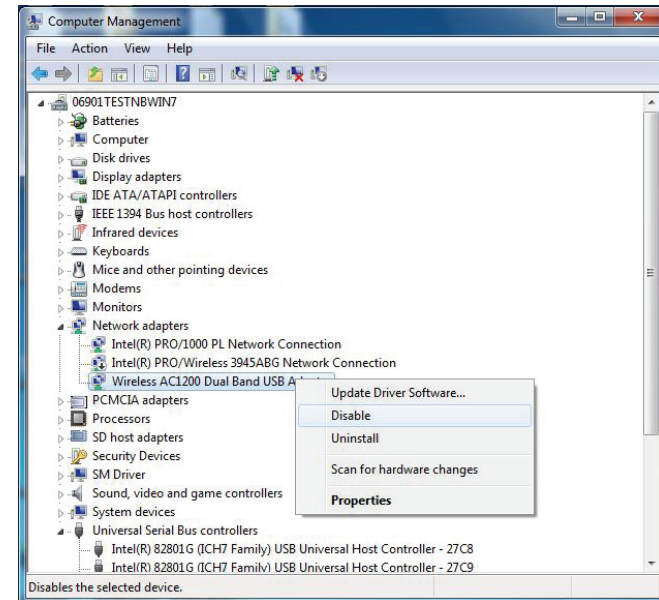


Click **Yes** to disable the adapter.



When the adapter is disabled, a down arrow or a grayed icon will be displayed.

Disabling the adapter will not remove the drivers. If you would like to use the adapter, simply right-click it and select **Enable**.





# Wireless Installation Considerations

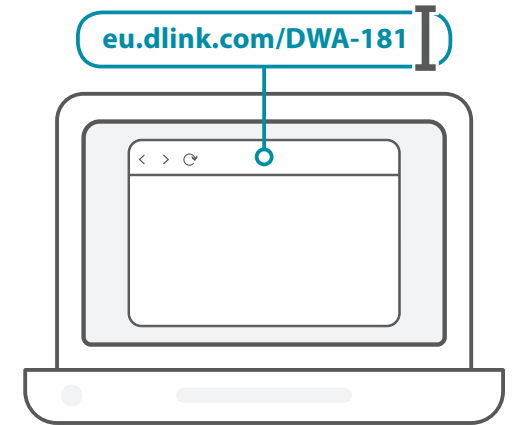
The D-Link wireless adapter lets you access your network using a wireless connection from virtually anywhere within the operating range of your wireless network. Keep in mind, however, that the number, thickness and location of walls, ceilings, or other objects that the wireless signals must pass through, may limit the range. Typical ranges vary depending on the types of materials and background RF (radio frequency) noise in your home or business. The key to maximizing wireless range is to follow these basic guidelines:

1. Keep the number of walls and ceilings between the D-Link adapter and other network devices to a minimum - each wall or ceiling can reduce your adapter's range from 3-90 feet (1-30 meters.) Position your devices so that the number of walls or ceilings is minimized.
2. Be aware of the direct line between network devices. A wall that is 1.5 feet thick (.5 meters), at a 45-degree angle appears to be almost 3 feet (1 meter) thick. At a 2-degree angle it looks over 42 feet (14 meters) thick! Position devices so that the signal will travel straight through a wall or ceiling (instead of at an angle) for better reception.
3. Building materials make a difference. A solid metal door or aluminum studs may have a negative effect on range. Try to position access points, wireless routers, and computers so that the signal passes through drywall or open doorways. Materials and objects such as glass, steel, metal, walls with insulation, water (fish tanks), mirrors, file cabinets, brick, and concrete will degrade your wireless signal.
4. Keep your product away (at least 3-6 feet or 1-2 meters) from electrical devices or appliances that generate RF noise.
5. If you are using 2.4 GHz cordless phones or X-10 (wireless products such as ceiling fans, lights, and home security systems), your wireless connection may degrade dramatically or drop completely. Make sure your 2.4 GHz phone base is as far away from your wireless devices as possible. The base transmits a signal even if the phone is not in use.

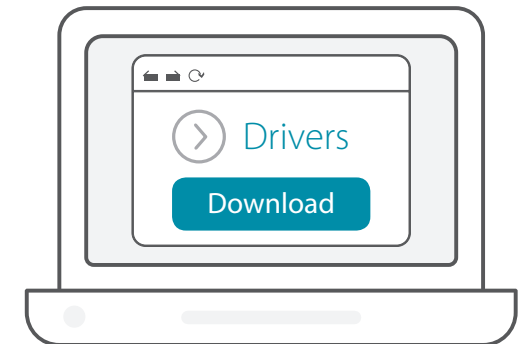
# Adapter Installation

**Note:** Do not plug in your Wi-Fi adapter until instructed.

- 1 / Type **eu.dlink.com/DWA-181** into the address bar of a web browser.



- 2 / Scroll down the page to the **Support** section. Open the **Drivers** drop down menu and download the appropriate driver for your operating system.



- 3 / Unzip the downloaded file. Run the file labeled as **Setup.exe**. The welcome screen will appear. Follow the wizard's instructions to complete the setup. Only plug the DWA-181 into your computer when instructed to.



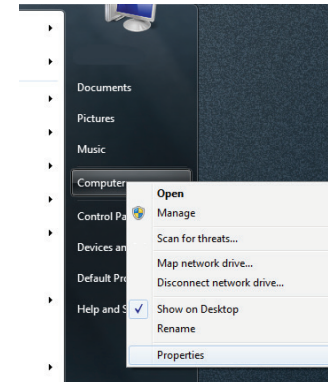
# Troubleshooting

This chapter provides solutions to problems that can occur during the installation and operation of the DWA-181. Read the following descriptions if you are having problems. The examples below are illustrated in Windows® 7. If you have a different operating system, the process on your computer will be similar.

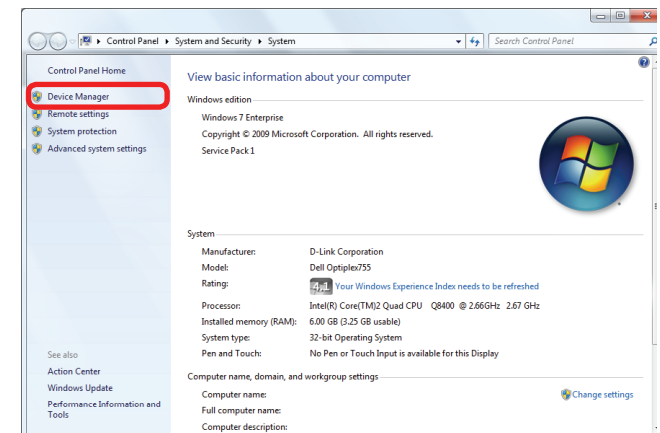
## 1. How do I know if my adapter is installed properly?

Go to **Start > Computer** (right-click) > **Properties**.

This will bring up the System settings under the Windows Control Panel.



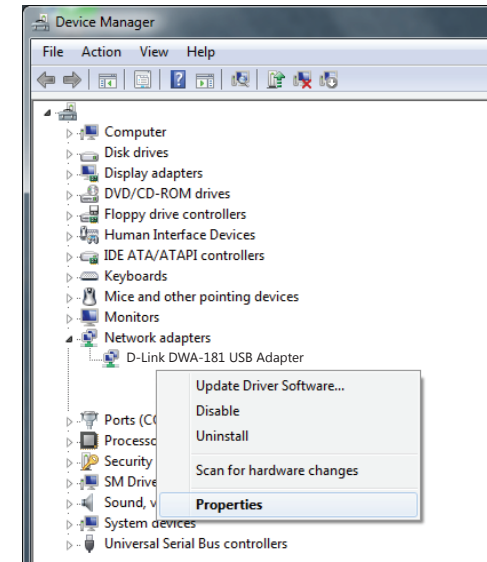
Click **Device Manager**.



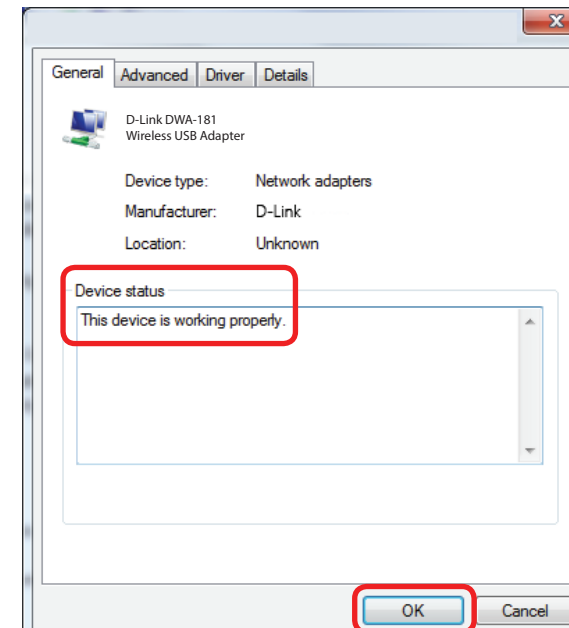
Click the + sign next to **Network Adapters**.

Right-click on **D-Link DWA-181 USB Adapter**.

Select **Properties** to check that the drivers are installed properly.



Look under **Device Status** to check that the device is working properly. Click **OK** to continue.



## 2. The computer does not recognize the DWA-181 AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter.

Make sure that the DWA-181 AC1300 MU-MIMO Wi-Fi Nano USB Adapter is properly seated in the computer's USB port. If Windows does not detect the hardware upon insertion of the adapter, make sure to completely remove drivers that were previously loaded.

## 3. The computer with the DWA-181 installed is unable to connect to the wireless network and/or the Internet.

- Check that the LED indicators for the broadband modem are indicating normal activity. If not, there may be a problem with the broadband connection.
- Check that the LED indicators on the wireless router are functioning properly. If not, check that the AC power and Ethernet cables are firmly connected.
- Check that the IP address, subnet mask, gateway, and DNS settings are correctly entered for the network
- 

Check that the **Network Connection** for the wireless client is configured properly. Select **AP (Infrastructure)** when connecting to an access point. Double-click on the **WLAN icon** in the taskbar > click on **Configuration** to change the settings for the wireless adapter.

If **Security** is enabled, make sure that the correct encryption keys are entered on both the DWA-181 and the access point. Double-click on the **WLAN** icon in the taskbar > click **Encryption**. Check to see that the key selected is set to the same key as other devices on the network.

# Wireless Basics

D-Link wireless products are based on industry standards to provide easy-to-use and compatible high-speed wireless connectivity within your home, business or public access wireless networks. Strictly adhering to the IEEE standard, the D-Link wireless family of products will allow you to securely access the data you want, when and where you want it. You will be able to enjoy the freedom that wireless networking delivers.

A wireless local area network (WLAN) is a cellular computer network that transmits and receives data with radio signals instead of wires. Wireless LANs are used increasingly in both home and office environments, and public areas such as airports, coffee shops and universities. Innovative ways to utilize WLAN technology are helping people to work and communicate more efficiently. Increased mobility and the absence of cabling and other fixed infrastructure have proven to be beneficial for many users.

Wireless users can use the same applications they use on a wired network. Wireless adapter cards used on laptop and desktop systems support the same protocols as Ethernet adapter cards.

Under many circumstances, it may be desirable for mobile network devices to link to a conventional Ethernet LAN in order to use servers, printers or an Internet connection supplied through the wired LAN. A wireless router is a device used to provide this link.

## **What is Wireless?**

Wireless or Wi-Fi technology is another way of connecting your computer to the network without using wires. Wi-Fi uses radio frequency to connect wirelessly, so you have the freedom to connect computers anywhere in your home or office network.

## **Why D-Link Wireless?**

D-Link is the worldwide leader and award winning designer, developer, and manufacturer of networking products. D-Link delivers the performance you need at a price you can afford. D-Link has all the products you need to build your network.

## **How does wireless work?**

Wireless works similar to how cordless phone work, through radio signals to transmit data from one point A to point B. But wireless technology has restrictions as to how you can access the network. You must be within the wireless network range area to be able to connect your computer. There are two different types of wireless networks Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), and Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN).

### **Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN)**

In a wireless local area network, a device called an Access Point (AP) connects computers to the network. The access point has a small antenna attached to it, which allows it to transmit data back and forth over radio signals. With an indoor access point as seen in the picture, the signal can travel up to 300 feet. With an outdoor access point the signal can reach out up to 30 miles to serve places like manufacturing plants, industrial locations, college and high school campuses, airports, golf courses, and many other outdoor venues.

### **Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN)**

Bluetooth is the industry standard wireless technology used for WPAN. Bluetooth devices in WPAN operate in a



range up to 30 feet away.

Compared to WLAN, the speed and wireless operation range are both less than WLAN, but in return it doesn't use nearly as much power which makes it ideal for personal devices, such as mobile phones, PDAs, headphones, laptops, speakers, and other devices that operate on batteries.

## **Who uses wireless?**

Wireless technology has become so popular in recent years that almost everyone is using it, whether it's for home, office, business, D-Link has a wireless solution for it.

### **Home**

- Gives everyone at home broadband access
- Surf the web, check email, instant message, and etc.
- Gets rid of the cables around the house
- Simple and easy to use

### **Small Office and Home Office**

- Stay on top of everything at home as you would at office
- Remotely access your office network from home
- Share Internet connection and printer with multiple computers
- No need to dedicate office space

## **Where is wireless used?**

Wireless technology is expanding everywhere not just at home or office. People like the freedom of mobility and it's becoming so popular that more and more public facilities now provide wireless access to attract people. The wireless connection in public places is usually called "hotspots".

Using a D-Link USB adapter with your laptop, you can access the hotspot to connect to Internet from remote locations like: airports, hotels, coffee shops, libraries, restaurants, and convention centers.

Wireless network is easy to setup, but if you're installing it for the first time it could be quite a task not knowing where to start. That's why we've put together a few setup steps and tips to help you through the process of setting up a wireless network.

## **Tips**

Here are a few things to keep in mind, when you install a wireless network.

### **Centralize your router or access point**

Make sure you place the router/access point in a centralized location within your network for the best performance. Try to place the router/access point as high as possible in the room, so the signal gets dispersed throughout your home. If you have a two-story home, you may need a repeater to boost the signal to extend the range.

### **Eliminate Interference**

Place home appliances such as cordless telephones, Nanowaves, and televisions as far away as possible from the router/access point. This would significantly reduce any interference that the appliances might cause since they operate on same frequency.

### **Security**

Don't let your next-door neighbors or intruders connect to your wireless network. Secure your wireless network by turning on the WPA or WEP security feature on the router. Refer to product manual for detail information on how to set it up.

# Wireless Modes

There are basically two modes of networking:

- **Infrastructure** – All wireless clients will connect to an access point or wireless router.
- **Ad hoc** – Directly connecting to another computer, for peer-to-peer communication, using wireless network adapters on each computer.

An Infrastructure network contains an access point or wireless router. All the wireless devices, or clients, will connect to the wireless router or access point.

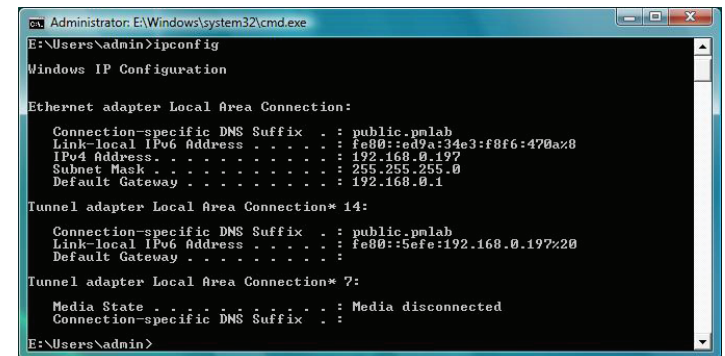
An ad hoc network contains only clients, such as laptops with wireless USB adapters. All the adapters must be in ad hoc mode to communicate.

# Networking Basics

## Check your IP address

After you install your new D-Link wireless adapter and have established a wireless connection, by default, the TCP/IP settings should be set to obtain an IP address from a DHCP server (i.e. router) automatically. To verify your IP address, please follow the steps below.

- Click **Start** > **All Programs** > **Accessories** > **Command Prompt**. You may need administrative access to run this application.
- For all additional prompt windows inquiring of running the command prompt application, select **Yes**, **OK**, or **Continue**.
- At the prompt, type *ipconfig* and press **Enter**.
- This will display the IP address, subnet mask, and default gateway of your adapter.



```
Administrator: E:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
E:\Users\Admin>ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : public.pmlab
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::ed9a:34e3:f8f6:470a%8
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.0.197
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.0.1

Tunnel adapter Local Area Connection* 14:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : public.pmlab
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::5efc:192.168.0.197%20
    Default Gateway . . . . . :

Tunnel adapter Local Area Connection* 7:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :

E:\Users\Admin>
```

If the address is 0.0.0.0, check your adapter installation, security settings, and the settings on your router. Some firewall software programs may block a DHCP request on newly installed adapters.

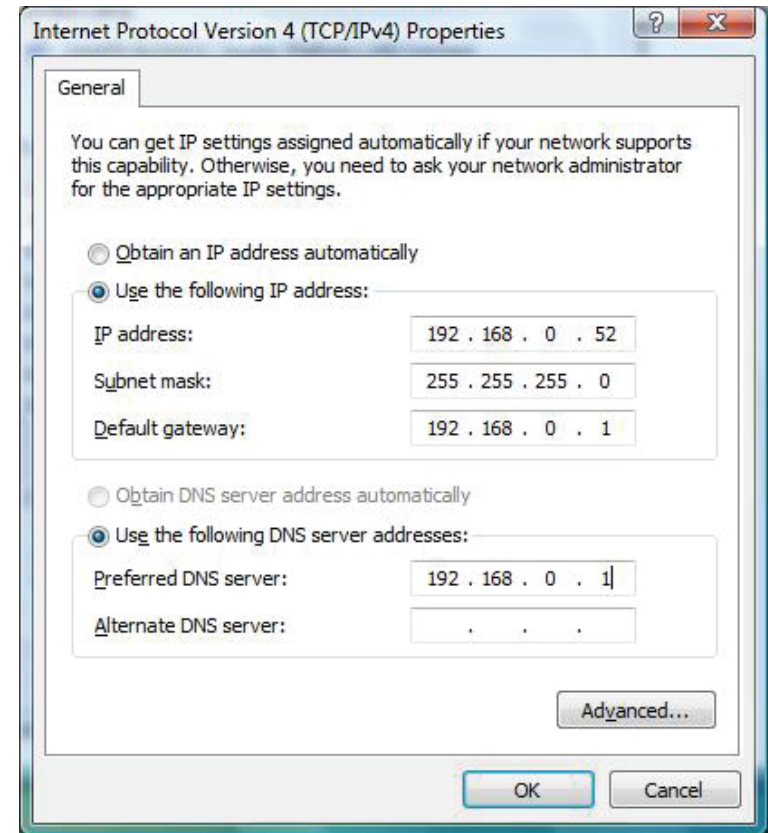
# Statically Assign an IP address

If you are not using a DHCP capable gateway/router, or you need to assign a static IP address, please follow the steps below:

- Click on **Start > Control Panel** (make sure you are in Classic View). Double-click on the **Network and Sharing Center** icon and then click on **Change adapter settings**.
- Right-click on the **Local Area Connection** which represents your D-Link wireless network adapter which will be connected to your network.
- Highlight **Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP /IPv4)** and click **Properties**.
- Click **Use the following IP address** and enter an IP address that is on the same subnet as your network or LAN IP address on your router or network.

**Example:** If the router's LAN IP address is 192.168.0.1, make your IP address 192.168.0.X where X is a number between 2 and 99. Make sure that the number you choose is not in use on the network.

- Set **Default Gateway** the same as the LAN IP address of your router or gateway.
- Set **Primary DNS** the same as the LAN IP address of your router or gateway.
- The **Secondary DNS** is optional (you may enter a DNS server from your ISP).
- Click **OK** to save your settings.



# Technical Specifications

## Standards

- IEEE 802.11ac
- IEEE 802.11n
- IEEE 802.11g
- IEEE 802.11b
- IEEE 802.11a

## Bus Type

- USB 2.0

## Security

- Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA™, WPA2™, WPA3™)

## Power Consumption

- Min: 167 mA
- Max: 338 mA

## Operating Voltage

- 5.0 VDC +/- 10%

## Operating Temperature

- 0 °C to 40 °C (32 °F to 104 °F)

## Storage Temperature

- -20 °C to 75 °C (-4 °F to 167 °F)

## Operating Humidity

- 10% to 90% maximum (non-condensing)

## Storage Humidity

- 5% to 95% maximum (non-condensing)

## Dimensions

- 20.2 x 14.9 x 7.1 mm (0.80 x 0.59 x 0.28 in)

## Weight

- 2.21g

## Certifications

- CE
- FCC
- IC

\* Maximum wireless signal rate derived from IEEE Standard 802.11ac, 802.11n, 802.11b, and 802.11g specifications. Actual data throughput will vary. Network conditions and environmental factors, including volume of network traffic, building materials and construction, and network overhead, lower actual data throughput rate. Environmental factors will adversely affect wireless signal range.

# Regulatory Information

## **Federal Communication Commission Interference Statement**

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

## **Non-modifications Statement:**

Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

## **Caution:**

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This device and its antenna(s) must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter except in accordance with FCC multi-transmitter product procedures. For product available in the USA/Canada market, only channel 1~11 can be operated. Selection of other channels is not possible.

## **Note**

The country code selection is for non-USA models only and is not available to all USA models. Per FCC regulations, all WiFi product marketed in the USA must be fixed to USA operational channels only.

## **RF Frequency Requirements**

This device is for indoor use only when using all channels in the 5.15 - 5.25 & 5.75 - 5.85 GHz frequency range. High power radars are allocated as primary users of the 5.25 & 5.75 GHz bands. These radar stations can cause interference with and/or damage this device.

It is restricted to indoor environments only.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

### **FCC Radiation Exposure Statement**

This product complies with the FCC portable RF exposure limit set forth for an uncontrolled environment and is safe for intended operation as described in this manual. RF exposure can be further reduced by keeping the product as far as possible from the user's body or by lowering the device's output power if such a function is available. This device has been tested and meets the FCC RF exposure guidelines. The maximum SAR value reported is 1.03W/kg.

This specific maximum SAR values can be found in the section of this user guide. When carrying the product or using it while worn on your body, maintain a distance of 5mm from the body to ensure compliance with RF exposure requirements.

### **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) Statement:**

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

### **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) Statement:**

This device complies with ISED licence-exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) this device may not cause interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Le présent appareil est conforme aux CNR d'ISED applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L'exploitation est autorisée aux deux conditions suivantes :

- (1) l'appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et
- (2) l'utilisateur de l'appareil doit accepter tout brouillage radioélectrique subi, même si le brouillage est susceptible d'en compromettre le fonctionnement.



(i) the device for operation in the band 5150-5250 MHz is only for indoor use to reduce the potential for harmful interference to co-channel mobile satellite systems;

(i) les dispositifs fonctionnant dans la bande 5150-5250 MHz sont réservés uniquement pour une utilisation à l'intérieur afin de réduire les risques de brouillage préjudiciable aux systèmes de satellites mobiles utilisant les mêmes canaux;

(iii) for devices with detachable antenna(s), the maximum antenna gain permitted for devices in the band 5725-5850 MHz shall be such that the equipment still complies with the e.i.r.p. limits specified for point-to-point and non-point-to-point operation as appropriate;

(iii) pour les dispositifs munis d'antennes amovibles, le gain maximal d'antenne permis (pour les dispositifs utilisant la bande de 5725 à 5850 MHz) doit être conforme à la limite de la p.i.r.e. spécifiée pour l'exploitation point à point et l'exploitation non point à point, selon le cas;